IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the automatic generation of a textual expression from a semantic representation, comprising the computer-executed steps of:

building a statistical model from a plurality of pre-determined pairs of semantic representations and associated expressions, wherein the building further comprises determining which information in an external format is present in a negative list and which information in the external format is absent in the negative list, wherein the negative list describes information in the external format that is irrelevant to the statistical model, wherein the statistical model comprises a decision tree; and

producing a first associated expression from a first semantic representation using the statistical model.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the building step further comprises:

converting the pairs of semantic representations and associated expressions from the external format into an internal format.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the converting step further uses the negative list and a translation table.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the converting step further comprises:

converting information that is absent in the negative list from the external format to the internal format using the translation table; and

refraining from converting information that is present in the negative list.

7. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the building step further comprises:

determining a plurality of questions;

classifying the information in the internal format using the plurality of questions; and

calculating the statistical model from the internal format using the plurality of questions.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the determining step further comprises:

determining the plurality of questions from pre-determined boundary conditions.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for the automatic generation of a textual expression from a semantic representation, comprising:

means for building a statistical model from a plurality of pre-determined pairs of semantic representations and associated expressions, wherein the building further comprises determining which information in an external format is present in a negative list and which information in the external format is absent in the negative list, wherein the negative list describes information in the external format that is damaging to the statistical model, wherein the statistical model comprises a decision tree; and

means for producing a first associated expression from a first semantic representation using the statistical model.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the means for building further comprises:

means for converting the pairs of semantic representations and associated expressions from the external format into an internal format.

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for converting further uses the negative list and a translation table.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for converting further comprises:

means for converting information that is absent in the negative list from the external format to the internal format using the translation table; and

means for refraining from converting information that is present in the negative list.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the means for building further comprises:

means for determining a plurality of questions;

means for classifying the information in the internal format using the plurality of questions; and

means for calculating the statistical model from the internal format using the plurality of questions.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the means for determining further comprises:

means for determining the plurality of questions from pre-determined boundary conditions.

16. (Canceled)